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A section following on the "Reading of Latin Poetry" presents Professor Bennett's well-known views on that subject.

In accordance with a usage inaugurated some five or six years ago, the long vowels of the first book are indicated. A few illustrations are used, mostly stereotyped ones. The notes are good and suggestive, as one would expect from Professor Bennett's hand, but in character and content they differ little from the notes in his edition of Caesar. They do not suggest a distinction between the matter-of-fact description of conquest and the exalted language of a superb poet. It is not an easy thing to write a successful commentary for Virgil, but poetic translations (as in the excellent edition of Papillon and Haigh) and parallel quotations from modern writers influenced by Virgil would go far toward quickening in the young reader the same sentiments and emotions which were aroused in the heart of a Roman who conned the pages of this matchless epic.

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*A History of Ancient Greek Literature.* By HAROLD N. FOWLER.

New York: D. Appleton & Co. Pp. x+470. \$1.40.

This book can be recommended as a reference work upon the history of Greek literature, but not as a textbook. In about 460 pages Mr. Fowler has enumerated all the writers of ancient Greek from Homer to the time of Justinian. He has evidently been at great pains to inform himself, as accurately as the more or less fragmentary evidence will permit, upon their lives and writings. His reading in Greece has apparently been extensive. In matters of disputed chronology and authorship his attitude is one of judicious conservatism, which tends to make his work a safe reference guide for young students.

Mr. Fowler, however, seems to lack some of the qualities which one writing a history of literature, especially of ancient Greek literature, should possess. His work shows no large grasp of literary tendencies, no ability to look back upon some period and touch upon its salient weaknesses or elements of greatness, so as to sum up the influence of one literary generation upon another. The topical treatment, necessary perhaps in a reference work of this kind, has been carried to such an extent as to destroy all feeling of connection between the various periods of Greek literary development and to leave no impression of its intrinsic unity.

A sober and judicial attitude is praiseworthy in any scholarly work. But in reading this work one longs for an occasional manifestation of enthusiasm — something that might stimulate in the student an interest in Greek literature, or at least give him some appreciation of the power and charm of its best productions. The author's treatment of the women of Homer (pp. 21, 22) is an almost isolated memorial of real personal enthusiasm; and we are grateful for it, despite his evident failure, in discussing the characterization of Nausicaa, to appreciate

the reason why she does not fall in love with Odysseus. The erotic motif is not one which the early epic poet could employ. He may have appreciated its possibilities, but it was contrary to the conventions of his art. With Apollonius the case would have been very different.

As a literary critic Mr. Fowler is often superficial, as, for example, in his treatment of Euripides. He has utterly failed to give an adequate idea of the earnestness with which that great thinker attacked problems of human and divine morality and responsibility.

Perhaps the faults of this history of literature are partly due to the fact that the writer has not confined himself to one definite circumscribed task. His textbook is intended both for secondary schools and for colleges, but these are two entirely different fields, each of which demands its own method of treatment. Furthermore, he has endeavored to interest the general reader. The result is neither fish, flesh, nor fowl. The statement made in the preface that the book contains little or nothing which should not be familiar to every educated person, is somewhat too strong. There are many cultured people who would cheerfully deny all knowledge of Xenodamus of Cythera, Xenocritus of Locri, and the iambic poet Ananius, not to mention many others whose names occur.

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*Thesaurus linguae Latinae epigraphicae.* By GEORGE N. OLCOTT.

Rome: Loescher & Co., 1904-5. Vol. I: Fascicles 1-4 (A-Adipiscor). \$0.50 per fascicle.

The essential qualities in a thesaurus are completeness, accuracy, and skill in arrangement. These demands are admirably met in Olcott's work. It takes into account the 200,000 or more inscriptions which have been published in the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum* and in the separate collections of Christian inscriptions. The references tested were correct; the arrangement of the material is logical; the paragraphing helpful, and the choice of types well made. Most of the lexicographical articles fall in one of three groups: (a) those in which the information is mainly epigraphical; the article on *abnepos* is a case in point; (b) those articles in which the meaning or use of the word in different phrases is the essential point of interest; and (c) articles, like that on *accipio*, in which both epigraphical and lexical material is important. Long paragraphs dealing with words of the third group are preceded by a convenient "synopsis of arrangement." The work covers entirely different ground from that occupied by de Ruggiero's *Dizionario*, and will be very useful, not only to the epigraphist, but also to the general student of the Latin language and style, and to the student of popular and dialectal Latin.

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